

Leading the fight against infection at the impressive new 1,212-bed University Hospital being built on the Walsgrave Hospital site that's now nearing completion is Sharon Stuart and her team of infection control nurses.

Recently highlighted as one of the top ten improvers amongst specialist hospitals for reducing its MRSA rates, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust is certainly not resting on its laurels.

"MRSA rates may be good but there's no room for complacency - there's more that can be done," says senior nurse manager infection control, Sharon Stuart. "The trust board has been very supportive of infection control and forward thinking, taking on board ideas that the infection control team has proposed."

Indeed, the infection control team has been very proactive in some of the design input for key areas in the new facility - flooring, siting of wash hand basins and wallcoverings, to name just a few.

One major change that's



Nearing completion: the impressive 1,212-bed University Hospital will be fully operational in 2006

already taking place specifically due to infection control issues as the phased opening of the new hospital continues is the move to ward disinfectors. The trust has ordered 96 Deko-190 ward washer-disinfectors to be installed - 60 standard units and 36 automatic door (hands-free) machines.

Trialled

"There are a few Deko-190s in the current hospital, mainly in ITUs and other critical care areas," reports Sharon. "We've been happy with them but also trialled others and sought the recommendation of another trust before finalising on the machine for the new hospital."

"We're installing a combination of manual and hands-free machines, with the hands-free going into high risk areas - ITU, renal and medical wards."

So what led to the move from disposables to reusable, from



Ward level disinfection: staff nurse Rudo Murakwani demonstrates the Deko 190

New hospital heralds move to automatic ward washer-disinfectors

Nearly 100 versatile Dekomed ward level washer-disinfectors are being installed in the new 1,212-bed University Hospital being built on the Walsgrave Hospital site

macerators to ward-disinfectors?

In an ongoing process, the trust's environmental group looks at aspects and practice in the current hospital and considers how these will impact in the new-build facility. The group's decision was one of the main factors in the move to ward-disinfectors.

The trust asked infection control team leader Sharon Stuart for her preference of ward-disinfector. Her choice of

the Deko-190 was based on previous experience, the performance of the trial unit in a high risk area and the endorsement of another trust.

"I like them because they're versatile," enthused Sharon when discussing the move to ward-disinfectors with *Inside Hospitals*. "With the right attachments you can clean a wide range of items, not just bedpans and urine bottles - the jets get right into flower vases for example."

"Staff are also presented with an hygienically clean environment when they open the machine."

With a performance that ensures ward equipment is decontaminated to the same standards as instruments processed through sterile services departments, installation and commissioning of the machines are critical to achieving HTM 2030 compliance.

Sharon was present at the lengthy commissioning process of the first Deko-190 installed in the new University Hospital. Procedures include soil testing, electrical and mechanical testing, thermostatic testing and calibration checks of each machine. The Authorized Person (AP) for the trust validates all the tests, which are replicated as each of 96 new ward-disinfectors is installed.

While Sharon describes the machines as very easy to operate supplier Dekomed delivers onsite training in



Infection control team: Sharon Stuart (bottom right) with (clockwise) Josie McHale Owen, Michelle Gorrell, Melanie Gallo, June Woodcock and (inset) Alison Bradley

Continued on the facing page

Continued from the previous page

partnership with the infection control team.

The versatile Deko-190 is designed for use mainly in hospitals, long-term care facilities, nursing homes and healthcare centres. The micro-processor controlled washing and thermal disinfection machine may be used for a wide range of articles, such as bedpans, urine bottles, portable sanitary pans, suction bottles, hand wash basins, bowls, gallipots, flower vases and other similar re-useable items.

Fully compliant with HTM 2030, the machine's cleaning and thermal disinfection efficiency have been stringently tested and approved internationally. With its unique, patented fresh water circulation washing principle, the mechanical washing efficiency



Easy to use: three different programmes are available

is outstanding and requires only the minimum usage of water and energy. Disinfection is carried out by steam that's integrally generated in an unpressurised boiler.

The internal water and steam process prevents unpleasant odours and bacterial growth inside the machine. All internal surfaces are washed and the water tank, piping, outlet, chamber and articles being processed are disinfected in each cycle.

The Deko-190's micro-processor offers the choice of three different programmes, that can be easily tailored to suit special washing and disinfection requirements. Temperatures, selected cycles, disinfection phase and malfunction are digitally displayed.

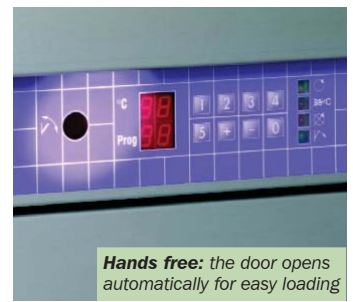
Ideal for high risk areas and

those occasions when hands are full, the hands-free machine opens the door automatically, ready for the unit to be loaded.

"As hospitals rise to the challenge of HAIs and consider decontamination at ward level we've

certainly seen a significant swing towards the use of re-useable bedpans in automatic washer-disinfectors over the last 18-months," reports Mike Bowden, a director at supplier Dekomed. "With cleanliness a priority the excellent cleaning efficacy that the new breed of ward washer-disinfectors achieves produces the same level of decontamination as a sterile services department at ward level."

With over 600 of the popular Deko-190 machines now installed across the UK, it seems that many hospitals are re-evaluating their processes and joining the move to re-useable when updating existing facilities and perhaps more importantly in the large new-build projects typified by the new University Hospital in Coventry.



Hands free: the door opens automatically for easy loading

For further information call Dekomed on: 0161 483 7333, e-mail: deko@dekomed.co.uk or visit: www.dekomed.co.uk



Versatile: one of the main benefits is the wide range of items that can be disinfected

ENQUIRY NO. 000